

already weak and failing governments toward authoritarianism and radical ideologies. As a result, the U.S. may be drawn more frequently into these situations to either provide stability or reconstruction.

This amendment, Members, builds on the recognition and requires the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant agencies to assess specific needs of developing countries in adapting to climate changes. Based on the assessment, our amendment requires a strategy be submitted to the Congress to address these needs, including identification of existing funding and new funding sources which may be required for such purposes.

Please join us in building a foundation to secure developing countries from instability associated with climate change.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN. The amendment affects a portion of the bill within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Chairman LANTOS accepts the amendment and commends the gentlelady and her co-authors on their excellent work.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, what concerns me most about the amendment is its requirement for a report by the Secretary that includes a strategy to help developing countries to adapt to climate change, and I quote, "including the provision of United States assistance to developing countries and an identification of existing funding sources, and a description of new funding sources that will be required specifically for such purposes."

Mr. Chairman, it's one thing to have the executive branch agencies compose a strategy, but it's quite another to encourage, if not require, such agencies to find new ways to justify further increasing U.S. foreign assistance to these countries.

This strategy would come after the section of the bill, section 2202, which already calls for \$200 million every year from the year 2008 to the year 2012 to be allocated for U.S. assistance and programs in developing countries that "promote clean and efficient energy technologies."

I believe that there is a positive intent behind this amendment, and I commend my colleague, Ms. SOLIS, from California for offering it. But it would be a better proposal if it did not have a requirement that the report from the Secretary of State include a strategy that basically instructs the Secretary to tell us how to spend more money.

So I hope that our colleagues would reject this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SOLIS. Reclaiming my time, I would just like to submit that this is a study bill, and that we are exploring the possibilities of funding here.

I would next like to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) for 30 seconds.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise just to add my voice in support of this bill and to submit the rest of my statement for the RECORD.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleagues, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. KIRK for their work on this amendment.

One of the important pieces of this bill is The "International Climate Cooperation Re-engagement" section, which seeks to re-engage U.S. involvement in global climate change and will work to reduce global greenhouse emissions worldwide.

Our amendment will help us take another step in reducing the effects of global climate change.

Numerous reports have found that climate change is directly linked to, and has a disproportionate effect on, developing countries by threatening the world's water supply and contributing to global poverty.

In June 2007, the United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries issued a report stating that climate change was the one of the most severe threats facing the least developed countries of the world.

As one of the largest greenhouse gas emitting countries in the world, it is our responsibility to help other countries adapt to the effects of global warming.

This amendment will take a crucial step by requiring a report on the adaptation needs of developing countries, and developing a strategy to address those needs.

Thank you and I urge adoption of our amendment.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to Mr. GILCHREST, who is also one of our major cosponsors of the legislation.

Mr. GILCHREST. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, what I would like to do is, to my colleagues, and certainly to the Speaker, if anybody else is listening, there is a lot of information out there about climate change. There is a lot of information about how it's going to affect the globe and how it's going to affect the United States.

If there is any book that I have ever read with the written and pictorial word of that is "Earth Under Fire: How Global Warming is Changing the World," Gary Braasch.

What we need to do on this issue is understand a quote given by Norman Cousins who wrote the book 30 years ago, "Human Options." And in that book there is a quote. That quote is, "Knowledge is the solvent for danger." And you put that quote next to another one by Thomas Jefferson, which says, "ignorance and a free society and a successful society are not compatible."

What we have here is a study to understand the concept of where human

activity is not compatible with eons of nature design and its impact.

Let's learn about that information. Let's vote for this amendment.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleagues to support this very important amendment and ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES) having assumed the chair, Mr. SERRANO, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3221

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 3221 pursuant to House Resolution 615, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Reserving the right to object, and I may not object, I just want to ask of the gentlewoman from California, has this unanimous consent request been cleared with the minority leadership?

Ms. SOLIS. Yes, it has, to my understanding.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. And they have accepted it?

Ms. SOLIS. Yes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material into the record on H.R. 3221.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3221.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, with Mr. SERRANO (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 21 offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. CLEAVER

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 110-300.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. CLEAVER:

Amend section 303(f)(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as proposed to be inserted by section 6201 of the bill, to read as follows:

“(1) PROHIBITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No Federal agency shall acquire a light duty motor vehicle or medium duty passenger vehicle that is not a low greenhouse gas emitting vehicle.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR VEHICLES PROVIDED BY FUNDS CONTAINED IN MEMBERS’ REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE.—If any portion of a Members’ Representational Allowance is used to provide any individual with a vehicle described in paragraph (1), including providing an individual with a vehicle under a long-term lease, the House of Representatives shall be considered to have acquired the vehicle for purposes of paragraph (1).

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘Federal agency’ includes any office of the legislative branch; and

“(ii) the term ‘Members’ Representational Allowance’ means the allowance described in section 101(a) of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 57b(a)).”.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 615, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that we won't have to use the

entire 5 minutes in the interest of time.

This is a simple but commonsense amendment to this bill, because it will require of Members of this body to do the exact same thing that we are requiring of Federal agencies, and that is for any Member who is using his or her Members’ Representational Allowance to lease an automobile, that they would be required to lease the exact same kinds of vehicles, those that are alternative fuels when available, that we are requiring of Federal agencies.

This amendment is designed for a demonstration to the public that we are serious about energy independence and that we are also going to lead by example.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in serious opposition.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have great respect for my good friend from Missouri, who I believe was born in Texas. In fact, I think the gentleman was born in Waxahachie, Texas, so I have utmost respect.

Mr. Chairman, I have a GM assembly plant in my district in Arlington, Texas. The lease car that I use in my district is produced there. It is a GM Tahoe. It is a very good vehicle. It is made with union labor, which would make all my friends on the Democratic side happy. I am very happy with it. It has the engine in it that at a certain speed and under certain conditions, four of the eight cylinders stop working so you get increased fuel efficiency.

But I don't believe it would be certified as a low-greenhouse-gas-emitting vehicle. In fact, I am not sure that we have a definition right now in current law of what a low-greenhouse-gas-emitting vehicle is.

I certainly respect the gentleman from Missouri's intent on this. But I think it is premature. I think we need to wait a number of years. Let's see exactly how some of these new vehicles that are currently in the research phase turn out.

I drove another GM product around the Capitol not too many weeks ago that runs on hydrogen. That particular vehicle is not available for lease or sale right now. When it is, it probably will be a low-greenhouse-gas-emitting vehicle. But it is probably 5 or 6 years away from being able to be purchased or leased.

Mr. Chairman, again, we understand the intent of the amendment. The intent is noble. But the application and practice, I think, would be impractical at this point in time. So I strongly oppose the amendment and hope that we defeat it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, there are about 100 Members of the United States Congress who lease automobiles.

And we are requiring, as of 1997, through a mandate from President Clinton, that all vehicles operating under the aegis of the General Services Administration operate with flex-fuel vehicles.

So what we are saying here is that we are willing to require that Federal agencies change their fleets, but that we are not willing to change our fleets. If those vehicles create confusion for us with regard to whether or not they are alternative-fuel vehicles, then we have to stop this entire program because we are already using the language of this amendment as we are requiring other vehicles throughout the Federal Government to use.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. CLEAVER's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this is an amendment to section 6201 of the bill, which is part of the contribution of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee which is a bipartisan one.

Section 6201 requires Federal agencies to purchase only low-greenhouse-gas-emitting vehicles for Federal fleets. This provision addresses the Government's contribution to global warming from vehicles which are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. CLEAVER's amendment proposes to extend this requirement to cover Congress, as well.

This amendment makes sense. It will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding the use of low-emitting vehicles. It holds Congress to the same standard we are applying to the executive branch. With this amendment, Congress will be taking another step to fight global warming.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, I yield time to the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, we are trying to move along the business of the people of this country.

I rise in strong support of this extraordinarily good legislation.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation truly represents a new direction in America's energy policy, and it will thereby strengthen our national, economic and environmental security.

Twenty-eight years ago, President Carter said (and I quote): “This intolerable dependence on foreign oil threatens our economic independence and the very security of our Nation.”

President Carter was correct then, but we failed to act.

We must not fail to act today.

We must pass this comprehensive legislation, which will reduce our reliance on foreign oil by investing in the infrastructure needed to deploy homegrown bio-fuels, providing incentives for plug-in hybrid cars, and promoting the use of mass transit.